

**“The RRAFT Advisory Committee”**

**Meeting #9 Notes**

February 4, 2008

Agenda Overview

- The meeting began with an agenda overview.
- Staff prepared a power point presentation for the meeting.

Timeline and Scope of Work

- Staff presented a tentative timeline for the remainder of the planning process.
- Committee agreed to meet more frequently in order to accomplish more work in the remaining time (see meeting schedule at the bottom of these notes).
- The timeline raised some question about the scope of the planning process and the committee’s assignment.
- Sperry noted that the RRAFT Charter (and department’s expectation) calls for the committee to develop recommendations for a Blackfoot River Management Plan and recommendations for other rivers in west-central Montana where recreation management is becoming a high priority.
- Some of the committee members interpreted this to mean that the committee and FWP would be developing management plans for all of the high priority rivers in west-central Montana, not just the Blackfoot.
- There is some expectation that the committee would be conducting a process similar to the one being used to develop the Blackfoot plan.
- Sperry explained that FWP intended for the committee to first develop recommendations for the Blackfoot plan and then identify any management tools/actions that might also be applied to other rivers in the area.
- Some committee members observed that it might take that much more work to write plans for the other rivers, that some of the components (concepts) of the Blackfoot plan could serve as the basis for the other plans.
- Sensing some disappointment among the committee, Sperry agreed to consult with Lee Bastian and the rest of his staff and then bring this issue up again at a future committee meeting.
- Some committee members suggested that we proceed with the planning efforts for the Blackfoot and then assess the overlap there is with other rivers and how much work it would take to extend this effort to those rivers.
- Committee agreed to keep working on the Blackfoot and revisit this at a future meeting.

Small Group Discussions

- At the last meeting (Meeting #8) Group 1 discussed crowding on the river in upper Reach 5. Group 2 discussed crowding at access sites in Reach 3.
- The two groups reconvened for the purpose of reviewing the discussion notes from last time and adding any addition information needed.

Presentation on Rationing and Allocation

- Sperry began with a recap on work done thus far.
- Sperry presented definitions and examples for Restricting Use, Rationing Use, and Allocating Use. (Refer to power point slides for presentation notes.)

- Sperry noted that the committee's upcoming assignments are to: 1) develop recommendations for a rationing and allocation system that could be considered if conditions reach unacceptable levels and other less-restrictive management tools proved ineffective; and 2) identify conditions that would "trigger" the use of Restrictions or Rationing.
- The committee recognized that an important part of this discussion is the identification of the trigger points.

#### Meeting Schedule

- All meetings will take place from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Meeting Dates:
  - **March 3 (Monday)**  
Missoula BLM Field Office  
3255 Fort Missoula Rd  
*\*\*The BLM office is the first building on the right after you pass the batting cages. There is a large sign out in front. We will be meeting in the conference room.*
  - **March 19 (Wednesday)**  
Missoula BLM Field Office  
3255 Fort Missoula Rd
  - **March 31 (Monday)**  
FWP Region 2 Office  
3201 Spurgin Road
  - **April 14 (Monday)**  
FWP Region 2 Office  
3201 Spurgin Road